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PP RUEHBZ RUEH DU RUEHJO RUEHMR RUEHRN
DE RUEHDR #0505 2171138
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8733
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 3460
RUEHJB/AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA 2929
RUEHLGB/AMEMBASSY KIGALI 1386
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 1325
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 0283
RUEHMS/AMEMBASSY MUSCAT 0069
RHMFISS/CDR USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RHMFIUU/CJTF HOA//J3//
RUEHLMC/MCC WASHINGTON DC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEHDS/USMISSION USAU ADDIS ABABA

UNCLAS DAR ES SALAAM 000505

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

AF/E FOR TREADWELL, INR FOR EHRENREICH

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KDEM](#) [PHUM](#) [PGOV](#) [SOCI](#) [TZ](#)

SUBJECT: AN INCIDENT ON PEMBA: 2010 ZANZIBAR ELECTION
REGISTRATION CONFLICT ESCALATES

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 486

11. (U) Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) suspended its Pemba voter registration activities August 4, following a boycott organized by opposition CUF and an incident in which Zanzibar government special forces fired weapons into the air and beat and arrested CUF supporters.

12. (SBU) Zanzibar Affairs Specialist (ZAS), on Pemba to observe voter registration, witnessed the violence. On August 3, alleging irregularities in registration (reftel), CUF began a boycott. On the morning of August 4, CUF supporters gathered near a school serving as the registration center in the village of Mchanga Mdogo, Wete, Pemba. The CUF supporters maintained a distance of several hundred feet from the center. By mid-day, with no business (the boycott was successful), officials closed the center and the CUF crowd began to disperse. Shortly thereafter, possibly in response to booing of CCM vehicles by CUF supporters, special forces began to fire their weapons in the air and to chase the CUF supporters into the village. Two CUF supporters were arrested; one apparently received a beating severe enough to require hospitalization. ZAS observed that the violent actions were limited to the special forces; police in the area did not participate.

13. (SBU) CUF officials notified the Embassy as well as the UK and Sweden. CUF Wete District Secretary (and MP) Riziki Omar told Poloff that the special forces fired in the air with the intent to intimidate and said there were no injuries from the gunfire (Note: Mainland English-language daily The Citizen reported August 5 that two people were wounded by gunfire, but we believe this information is incorrect).

14. (SBU) ZEC suspended its Pemba voter registration campaign for August 5. A date to resume has not been announced. There has been no report of further incidents on Pemba. However, media reported August 5 that police discovered and removed "landmines" from bridges on Pemba. (Comment: We consider the presence of landmines highly unlikely. Our senior police contacts are unaware of the alleged landlines, but are investigating the media reports.

15. (SBU) The "Friends of 2010" group of like-minded

diplomatic missions will meet August 7 to discuss these developments. We will propose a statement, seeking wide support from the group (and Department approval), calling for the observance of international standards and democratic processes for the entire 2010 election process, with a specific focus on Zanzibar.

ANDRE